

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 00399 311037Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SNM-02 AGRE-00 AID-05 DEAE-00  
TRSE-00 /031 W

-----311239Z 121176 /17

R 310830Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7321  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 0399

FOR SNM

E.O. 11652 N/A  
TAGS: SNAR, NP  
SUBJ: OPIUM-NEPAL

REF: STATE 019832

1. EMBASSY NARCOTICS CONTROL OFFICER HAS RAISED QUESTION OF POPPY CULTIVATION ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASSIONS WITH ACTING HEAD OF NEPAL'S NARCOTIC CONTROL BUREAU. IN DECEMBER 1976 DURING VISIT OF DEA REGIONAL OFFICIAL WE BROACHED QUESTION OF POPPY GROWTH IN NEPAL SPECIFICALLY DRAWING HMG ATTENTION TO REPORTS OF CULTIVATION NEAR SIMIKOT. AGAIN LAST WEEK DURING VISIT OF US CUSTOMS OFFICIALS WE ASKED WHETHER HMG HAD ANY INFORMATION ON OPIUM PRODUCTION IN COUNTRY.

2. ON BOTH OCCASSIONS ACTING HEAD OF BUREAU SAID HE HAD NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION LATHOUGH HE HAZARDED THE GUESS THAT THERE WAS SMALL QUANTITY OF OPIUM POPPY GROWN FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION. HE SAID THAT TO BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, HOWEVER, PRODUCTION WAS MINIMAL AND THAT HEROIN AVAIL-  
ABLE I KATHMANDU CONTINUED TO BE INPORTED FROM BANGKOK AND HON KING. HE ALSO NOTED THAT NARCOTIC  
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PAGE 02 KATHMA 00399 311037Z

CONTROL BUREAU WAS NOT YET REALLY ESTABLISHED, AND  
CONTROL BUREAU WAS NOT YET REALLY ESTABLISHED, AND  
THAT NO PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO GO TO THE  
FIELD TO ENFORCE NEW LAW CONTROLLING NARCOTICS  
SUBSTANCES.

3. OF GREATER INTEREST, PERHAPS, WAS HIS STATEMENT

THAT NEW LEGISLATION ALSO CALLED UPON GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP MEDICINAL USE FOR NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES GROWN WITHIN COUNTRY. WHEN WE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS NO KNOWN MEDICINAL USE FOR CANNABIS, HE AGREED BUT SAID THAT IT HAD SOME PURPOSE IN LOCAL MEDICINES. OFFICIAL THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT NEPAL WAS FORCED TO IMPORT LARGE AMOUNTS OF MORPHINE AND CODEINE FROM INDIA AND WAS CONSIDERING LOCAL PRODUCTION TO REDUCE IMPORTS. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION WITH SECRETARY OF HOME MINISTRY, POINTING OUT THAT PRODUCTION OF OPIUM POPPY WOULD BE MISTAKE OF DRASTIC PROPORTIONS, GIVEN FACT THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT COULD NOT HOPE TO PREVENT ILLEGAL DIVERSION. HOME SECRETARY DENIED THAT THERE WERE ANY SPECIFIC PLANS TO CULTIVATE POPPY BUT THAT NEW LAW SIMPLY GAVE GOVERNMENT A MANDATE TO LOOK AT WAYS TO DEVELOP BENEFICIAL USES OF DRUGS ALREADY PRODUCED IN NEPAL.

4. UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE HAS ALSO DISCUSSED QUESTION OF POPPY GROWTH WITH HMG OFFICIALS. HE, TOO HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN SHOULD NEPAL OPT TO GROW OPIUM IN ORDER TO REDUCE RELIANCE ON INDIAN IMPORTS. AS OF NOW, HOWEVER, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT CULTIVATION ON LARGE SCALE IS BEING SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED. CHARGE AND NCO HAVE ASKED TO MEET WITH HOME SECRETARY AGAIN THIS WEEK, INTER ALIA, TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE AGAIN.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 19832  
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**Review Markings:**  
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